

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A PROPOSED  
AMENDMENT TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY  
RULE 20-12-.17, "Firm Names."  
AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:**

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Georgia State Board of Accountancy (hereinafter "Board") proposes an amendment to the Georgia State Board of Accountancy Rules, Rule 20-12-17, "Firm Names," (herein after "proposed rule amendment"). The Board voted to post this notice of adoption at a meeting on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008. The proposed rule amendment defines the accounting firms may be named. This notice, together with an exact copy of the proposed rule amendment and a synopsis of the proposed rule amendment, is being mailed to all persons who have requested, in writing, that they be placed on a mailing list. A copy of this notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule amendment, and a synopsis of the proposed rule amendment may be reviewed during normal business hours of 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday, except official State holidays, at the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. Copies may also be requested by contacting the Board office at (478) 207-2440.

**A public hearing will be held at 10:00 a.m. May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at the Secretary of State's Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive in Macon, Georgia 31217** to provide the public an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed rule amendment.

At the public hearing anyone may present data, make a statement, comment or offer a viewpoint or argument whether orally or in writing. Lengthy statements or statements of a considerable technical or economic nature, as well as previously recorded messages, must be submitted for official record. Oral statements should be presented in writing. Written comments are welcome. Such written comments must be legible and signed, should contain contact information from the maker (address, telephone number and/or facsimile number, etc.) and be actually received in the office prior to the close of business (5:00 P.M.) on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Written comments should be addressed to Randall D. Vaughn, Division Director, Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, Georgia State Board of Accountancy, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. Telephone (478) 207-2440 or fax (866) 888-9718.

**The Board will consider the proposed rule amendment for adoption at a meeting scheduled to begin at 9:35 a.m. on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009** at the Secretary of State's Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive in Macon, Georgia 31217. According to the Department of Law, State of Georgia, the Georgia State Board of Accountancy has the authority to adopt a proposed rule amendment to Rule 20-12-.16 pursuant to authority contained in O.C.G.A. §§ 43-3-2, 43-3-5, 43-3-21, 43-3-35 and O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19.

At its meeting on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009 the Georgia State Board of Accountancy voted that the formulation and adoption of this rule does not impose excessive regulatory cost on any licensee and any cost to comply with the proposed rule cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-3-2, 43-3-5, 43-3-21, 43-3-35 and O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19.

Additionally, at the meeting, the Board voted that it was legal and feasible to meet the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-3-2, 43-3-5, 43-3-21, 43-3-35 and O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19 to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed in O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(a)(3)(A), (B), (C) and (D). The formulation and adoption of these rules will impact every licensee in the same manner and each licensee is independently licensed in the field or Accountancy.

For further information, contact the Board office at (478) 207-2440.

This notice is given in compliance with O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4.

This 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2009.

---

Randall D. Vaughn  
Division Director  
Professional Licensing Boards Division

Posted: April 6, 2009

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE  
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY  
RULES**

**RULE 20-12-.17, "Firm Names."**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this rule is to establish how accounting firms must be named.

**MAIN FEATURES:** This amendment deletes reference to partners and shareholders and replaces with CPA Owner.

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EXISTING RULE AND THE PROPOSED  
AMENDMENTS TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY  
RULE 20-12-.17, "Firm Names."**

**NOTE:** Underlined text is proposed to be added; lined through text is proposed to be deleted.

**20-12-.17 Firm Names.**

A licensee shall not practice public accountancy under a firm name which is misleading in any way as to the legal form of the firm or as to the persons who are partners, members, officers or shareholders of the firm, or as to any matter with respect to which public communications are restricted by Rule 20-12-.15.

However the names of one or more past CPA ~~partners or shareholders~~ owners may be included in the ~~firm~~ name of a ~~partnership or corporation~~ firm or its successor, and a CPA owner ~~partner or shareholder~~ surviving the death or withdrawal of all other CPA owners ~~partners or shareholders~~ may continue to practice under a ~~partnership or corporate~~ firm name for up to two years after becoming a sole CPA owner ~~practitioner or sole shareholder~~, provided however, that the name of any such former CPA owner ~~partner or former shareholder~~ may not be used in the event that such past CPA owner ~~partner or former shareholder~~'s license has been revoked, suspended or otherwise been the subject of action by the Board whereby the licensee has been prohibited, for any period of time from practicing public accountancy or prohibited from using the title CPA or holding himself out as a Certified Public Accountant. The firm name is not intended to reflect those licensees who are solely employees of the firm, having no ownership interest in the firm. A firm name may not include the names of Non-CPA owners.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-3-2, 43-3-5, 43-3-21, 43-3-35, and 43-1-19